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INFORMACIONEDINA

JUNE DENTIAL DATE DISTR. 10 December 1948 Siam/China/Indochina

SUBJECT

COUNTRY

PLACE

ACQUIRED

Movement of Students from Siam to China

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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There are at least two separate programs involved in the movement of students from Siam to other countries for reported Communist indoctrination. Comment. The various press reports concerning this movement been rather garbled.) One part of the movement is to Yunnan, with further destinations in some cases. The other is to military and political training establishments in Viet Nam.

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- Comment. In ad-2. One movement to Yunnan involved 300 students. dition to Siamese students, there may have also been Chinese, Iao or other residents of Siam included in the group. The date of the trip is not known but is has been implied that it may have been in June or July 1948.) The seat of the committee which organized recruiting was in Sakon Nakhon, and the head of the committee was a relative of Nai Tieng Sirikhan (name not given). Recruits were split up into small groups and travelled from Sakon Nakhon to Chiengrai, then to Mae Sai where they crossed the border into the Shan States. They then proceeded to Communist-held areas in the neighborhood of Kunming.
- Representatives of the Sakon Makhon committee, who accompanied the 3. groups of students, delivered them to a certain Siamese doctor who has lived in Nanking for a number of years. He was sent to Yunnan by Nai Sanguan Tularak to contact the students and assume responsibility 25X1X6 for them on behalf of the organization reportedly run by Nai San guan from Shanghai, in conjunction with Chinese Communists. The final destination of the groups is not known.) The total sum of money spent by the Sakon Nakhon committee for the organizing and travel expenses of this movement as far as Yunnan was 900,000 baht.

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Information about this movement came to light as a resultof the confession made to the Siamese government by Nai Liang Chayakan's nephew. Comment. Nai Liang, Deputy Kinister of Interior in the Pibul cabinet, has had an unsavory political reputation in Siam. In connection with the report concerning his nephew's activities as a student, it may be of interest to note that his son, Nai Lekha, was reported to have shot himself to death on 14 October 1948, according to the Siamese language press. Nai Lekha, it was said, was supposed

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to leave for Australia to continue his studies.) Nai Liang's nepher who was recruited by the Sakon Makhon committee, proceeded to Mae Sai, but lost contact there with the group with which he was travelling. He took advantage of the situation by returning to Bangkok to assuse himself, and, being short of money, asked Nai Liang for some. Under questioning by Nai Liang as to his whereabouts for the past several weeks, the nephew told the story.

A separate movement to Viet Nam was comprised of 65 students, some of whom were Siamese. Most, however, were Lao residents of Siam who, despite their Siamese citizenship, did not like to be called Siamese and were proud of their Lao blood. One of the chief organizers of this movement was another relative of Nai Tleng, who accompanied the group to Annam, via Thak Hek. They then proceeded to Do Luong in Thanh Hos nrovince, where there is an important Viet Minh training Comment. This is believed to be Doluong at 20-48, 106-54). Elaborate security measures are taken at this camp and it is extremely well-fortified. Full and limited military training and political training given there is secret. The new arrivals were very well-treated and given such luxuries as ice (from an electric refrigerator) and American cigarettes. Comment. Reports of these luxuries in the Viet Minh sone came from persons who have returned to

Siem from that camp.)

Comment. There have been many and varied reports in the Siamese press concerning the movements of students from Siam. Some have said that the students were abducted by Communist agents and sent to China and thence to the USSR. Others have said that the students were simply going to China. Various purposes were assigned to the "training", including Communist activity, Free Thai activity and a separatist movement in northeast Siam. On 29 October 1948, # was reported that Nai Thim Phuriphat and his brother, Nai Thong-In, were arrested in connection with an alleged northeast rebellion pld. Others arrested included Nai Chamnong Daoruang and Nai Thawin Udon, most notably. Police were quoted as saying that some of these men were responsible for a reported underground network by which youths from the northeast provinces were sent to China to study Communist methods. Nai Tieng Sirikhan who had been on trial for treason and who left Bangkok for the northeast on 28 October, was arrested in the same connection a few days later. It was reported that Nai Thim Phuriphat did have a hand in recruiting students for military training in China, but that after these students returned and assisted in Annamese and Lactian liberation, the liberated areas would come over to Siam. On 5 November, the press quoted Nai Thim as admitting that he had recruited some 40 to 50 students for study abroad, but that they were to be used for "some purpose outside the country", and no harm was intended to Siam.)

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